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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

DDI-5680-82
12 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

THROUGH: Chairman, National Intelligence Council *KL*

FROM: David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT: Rationales for Estimates on US Interests in the
South Pacific and on the Evolution of ASEAN

1. You questioned whether either of these estimates addressed important policy concerns and therefore whether these estimates merited the resources required. The estimate on US interests in the South Pacific responds to a clear-cut policy issue raised in ISA, State and CINCPAC; a DDI drafter has been identified. The estimate on the evolution of ASEAN is less closely related to a specific policy issue, but the drafter being an INR officer, there will be no drawdown on DDI resources.

2. NIE - US Interests in the South Pacific (DDI drafter). This estimate was requested by DOD/ISA Deputy Assistant Secretary Armitage and Assistant Secretary Holdridge at State. Admiral Long also encouraged it. Interest in this topic arises in the wake of increasing difficulties for Seventh Fleet ship visits to a number of newly independent island mini-states which refuse to allow nuclear-powered vessels in their ports and in some cases are asking for a pledge that no nuclear weapons are on board.

3. There is an Embassy in only one of these (Fiji) [redacted]

[redacted] Six of the countries ^{25X1}
have been described as probably needing concessional economic assistance for the indefinite future, and therefore susceptible to Soviet blandishments.

4. We need to define our interests, including ship visits, and measure our limited effort to keep abreast of events effecting them. There is an undifferentiated feeling in the intelligence community that we could wake up some morning and find ourselves excluded from portions of what has been an ANZUS lake -- and the Russians watching from ashore.

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5. NIE - Evolution of ASEAN (INR Drafter). ASEAN began as a move toward a common market which got nowhere, viz a large empty secretariat building in Djakarta. Currently, American policy makers are delighted at ASEAN's unforeseen political unity vis-a-vis the Vietnamese in regard to Kampuchea. Some Americans are intrigued with the possibilities of ASEAN military and intelligence cooperation.

6. We will examine what directions ASEAN might take in regard to US interests, and how the US might evaluate the comparative utility of doing business on different subjects collectively with ASEAN or bilaterally with the five members. ASEAN has surprised us in the past -- economic inactivity, political dynamism. Perhaps we can gain some insights for the future of use to policy makers.



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DCI/NIC/DDGries (12 Jul 82)

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